

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday January 17, 2023 AM

Present:

Andy Hover (AH) – BOCC Vice Chair, District 2

Jon Neal (JN) – BOCC, District 3

Chris Branch (CB) – BOCC Chair, District 3 (Not in attendance)

Lanie Johns (LJ) – Clerk of the Board

These notes were taken by an Okanogan County Watch volunteer via Zoom. Every attempt is made to be accurate. Notes are verbatim when possible, and otherwise summarized or paraphrased. Note taker comments or clarifications are in italics. These notes are published at <https://countywatch.org> and are not the official county record of the meeting. For officially approved minutes, which are normally published at a later time, see:

https://okanogancounty.org/offices/commissioners/commissioners_proceedings.php.

Time stamps below are in real time. To locate specific topics, a clock on the AV Capture video screen at <https://okanogancounty.org/avcapture.html> can assist in finding the correct spot on the video recording.

Summary of Significant Discussions or Actions:

- Discussion of WDFW Proposal for upgrades at Patterson Lake public access site utilizing RCO grant. AH supports 8mph speed limit.
- Signing fair entertainment agreement today.
- considering Oroville Senior Center funding/help.
- Public Comment re: problems with legal notices for Tunk Zoning
- Approval of EMS district budgets for 2023.
- Finance Committee Meeting: best practices for keeping track of finances and interest received on investments and Bonding interest cost. Tax statements expected to be out in middle February.
- Public Works update by County Engineer.
- 11:31 Recess until 1:30.

9:00 *CB not in attendance today*

JN and AH discuss problems relating to the O’Neil Road, north of Tonasket – south of Oroville. Will talk with County Engineer about it later this AM.

AH brings up that WDFW is putting together a grant proposal for upgrades at Patterson Lake public access, utilizing RCO grant funds. AH in favor of keeping 8 mph speed limit. Discusses the benefits of the proposed dock.

AH got an e-mail from Brock Hires regarding the service agreement for entertainment at the County

Fair this year. Would like to get it signed today.

JN brought in documentation from the Oroville Senior Center for some possible funding help. JN states we can look at it.

Regarding LTAC funding, AH explains there are 3 ways to utilize these funds: 1. Advertising 2. Visitor Information Center 3. Public Capital Improvements.

9:15

Public Comment: Isabelle Spohn, Methow Valley resident, reports there is a wrong date on the legal notice for the Tunk re-zoning. She checked to see if it had been remedied in the newspaper of record, and it had not. This is an important issue because there has been a lot of work done on this between the Planning Dept and the Public. There is no time to correct it now, due to the time crunch. Without correct legal notice, Isabelle advises the County may be liable if there are complaints.

9:30

Public Hearings on the 2023 budgets for Methow EMS District, Tonasket EMS, Oroville EMS, and the Lake Management Districts.

No public comment received. Moved, Seconded, and Carried to approve budgets/Resolutions as presented, but AH would like to delve into the Methow EMS in February for possible amendments.

10:00

Finance Committee Meeting with Pam Johnson (PJ) County Treasurer, Cari Hall (CH) County Auditor, and Lisa Schreckengast (LS) Finance Manager. This is the first finance meeting of the year. CH states this would be the time to make changes, suggestions, for better practices with the different people on this committee this year. PJ wanted to know if there were any other different reports that the BOCC would like them to provide. AH wants the Cash on Hand, Revenue/Expense Summaries.

Current Treasurer chairs this committee. 3.75% interest being paid on investments. AH states he expects ½ of the bond money to be paid out this year d/t to higher costs of building the Public Works Shop Buildings. Because of the bonding, the County may end up paying a penalty due to the high interest being received on investments.

There was considerable discussion regarding contingency reserve vs need to do budget supplementals to access funds. AH wants what is best for accountability. CH asks if we need \$800,000 in the Contingency Reserve.

10:39

PJ would like to have a discussion on Investment policy; Registered Warrants vs notes or promissory notes as some other counties are doing.

PJ feels that departments/budgets seem to be doing well right now.

AH – This one is odd to me regarding staff; positions, bars codes. This is confusing to me.

CH states that the new computer system (UNIS) will be keeping track differently. AH asks if we are going to a central bar code, how do we know how many positions we have?

CH states that pay scale is what is important to be public. AH states that maybe we should have a question regarding hiring.

11:05

Josh Thomson (JT), County Engineer reports on road conditions and road maintenance. A lot of thawing – water over the road. Peter Dan is where we had a slide, we'd like to see about ER funds.

JN and AH ask JT about the status of O'Niel Road – it is a local road, therefore not eligible for federal funds. JN curious about chip seal costs vs reconstruction. JT stated \$35,000 -40,000 per mile for chip seal vs a million \$ for Reconstruction. AH wonders why to reconstruct – there are no potholes.

JT brings up the Public Works Shops – where is the money coming from for these? AH states this is out of our Bonding \$\$\$. Will need Budget Adjustment and Budget Supplemental. JT will work on that and bring it back to the BOCC.

Public Works was attempting to order a Super Duty 1 ton truck, but the order was cancelled – that was expected to cost \$44,000. Now, to order this truck it is \$56,000. They went ahead and ordered AH asks when we can start looking locally?

JT explains to JN federal funds and how they can be so difficult to use – it is easier to use state funds, especially for overlays.

11:31

Recess until 1:30 PM